

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-19 and 21-26 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 2, 9, 14 and 21 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-19 and 21-26 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Amendment filed April 27, 2004, the Examiner has mailed the office action dated May 13, 2004. In the May 13 office action, the Examiner continues to reject many of the claims.

Applicant now further amends claim 2 to clarify that the access parameters from which the m-bit enable word are generated include "a first address" and "a byte count . . ." It is respectfully submitted that, for the reasons set forth in the response filed April 27, 2004 (and incorporated herein by reference) that Thome and Macachor, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 2.

Applicant has previously amended claim 2 to include the features of previous (now cancelled) claim 1. Thus, claim 2 was not substantively amended. The Examiner had previously rejected claim 2 as being obvious over Thome in combination with Macachor. The Examiner now continues to reject claim 2 on this same basis. In the response to Applicant's amendments, the Examiner notes that the access parameters from which the enable word (taking claim 2 as an example, not necessarily truly representative) is generated may be other than the first address and byte count.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to clarify the particular access parameters that are used to generate the enable word (claims 2 and 21) and to determine the at least one valid byte (claims 9 and 14). As the Examiner impliedly recognizes, nothing of this sort is either disclosed or suggested in either Thome or Macachor, when taken alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 491442008900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: June 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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